

S m a l l G r o u p Q u e s t i o n s



The Mediator

Note to Facilitators: *When you are ready to dig into the study, go over the following questions first and see how much information your group has retained from this weekend's service.*

1. What does the term 'trinity' seek to do?
2. How and where does God the Father verify Jesus' deity?
3. What is the job description of the Holy Spirit?
4. What was Jesus' chief aim?
5. True or False – The word 'trinity' is not found in the Bible.
6. What are some other familiar Christian terms that are not in the Bible?
7. In regards to man, how do all three of the trinity work together?

(Check out the following pages. You will find more information and a variety of questions for your group to discuss.)

WHO IS JESUS?

Many cults and sects today are divided over the question of who Jesus really is. Many times simply asking the question of "who is Jesus" will give you a gut feeling of whether or not the person you are talking with really is a Christian. The following poem attempts to give a picture, or better, attempts to describe who Jesus really is. Take some time as a small group and go around the room and read this poem aloud.

My King:

He is the King of the Jews
He is the King of Israel
But He's also
King of all the Ages;
King of Heaven;
King of Glory;
King of Kings;
and Lord of Lords.

He is
a prophet before Moses;
a priest after Melchizedek;
a champion like Joshua;
an offering in place of Isaac;
a king from the line of David;
a counselor above Solomon;
beloved, rejected, and exalted
like Joseph;
and yet far more...

The Heavens declare His glory...
and the firmament shows
His handiwork.

He who is, who was, and who always will be;

The first and the last
He is the Alpha and Omega
the Aleph and the Tau
the A and the Z;

He is the ego eimi,
the אהיה אשר אהיה
the "I AM that I AM"

The voice of the burning bush
the Captain of the Lord's Host
the conqueror of Jericho

He is our Kinsman-Redeemer
and He is our Avenger of Blood;
and He is our City of Refuge;

He was crucified on a cross of wood;
Yet He made the hill
on which it stood.

By Him were all things made
that were made;
without Him was not anything made
that was made;

By Him are all things held together!

In Him dwells
the fullness of the Godhead bodily;
The very God of very God.

He became
the first fruits of them that slept.

He is our Performing High Priest;
Our Personal Prophet;
Our Reigning King.

He is enduringly strong;
entirely sincere;
eternally steadfast;

He is imperially powerful;
immortally graceful;
impartially merciful;

He stands alone in Himself:
He's unique,
pre-eminent,
supreme,
unparalleled:

He's the Loftiest idea
in Literature;

He's the highest Personality
in Philosophy;

He's the Fundamental Doctrine
of Theology;

He's the Supreme Problem
in "higher criticism"!

He's the **Son of God!**

There is no means of measuring
his limitless love:

*It was written in blood,
on that wooden cross
erected in Judea
2,000 years ago.*

He was born of a woman
so that we could be born of God;
He humbled Himself
so that we could be lifted up;
He became a servant
so that we could be made joint-heirs;
He suffered rejection
so that we could become His friends;
He denied Himself
so that we could freely receive all things;
He gave Himself
so that He could bless us in every way.

He
is Available to the tempted and the tried;
Blesses the young;
Cleanses the lepers;
Defends the feeble;
Delivers the captives;
Discharges the debtors;
Forgives the sinners;
Franchises the meek;
Guards the besieged;
Heals the sick;
Provides strength to the weak;
Regards the aged;
Rewards the diligent;

Serves the unfortunate;
Sympathizes and He saves!

His Offices are many;
His Reign is righteous;
His Promises are certain;
His Goodness is limitless;
His Light is matchless;
His Love never changes;
His Grace is sufficient;
His Mercy is everlasting;
His Word is enough;
His Yoke is easy and
His Burden is light!

He's indescribable;
He's incomprehensible;
He's irresistible;
He's invincible!

The Heaven of heavens
cannot contain Him;
Man cannot explain Him

The Pharisees couldn't stand Him
but soon learned
that they couldn't stop Him;

They railroaded Him
through 6 illegal trials,
and yet

The witnesses couldn't agree against Him
and the personal representative
of the ruler of the world,
couldn't find any fault with Him;

Herod couldn't kill Him
death couldn't handle Him
the grave couldn't hold Him!

He has always been and always will be;
He had no predecessor and
will have no successor;
You can't impeach Him and
he isn't going to resign!

His name is above every name;
That at the name of Yeshua
Every knee shall bow
Every tongue shall confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord!

His **is** the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory...
for ever, and ever.

Hallelujah! ...and Amen!

*As inspired by Pastor Dr. Shadrach Meshach Lockridge of San Diego Calvary Baptist Church,
and supplemented from many additional sources.)*

Is it really that important to believe in the Trinity? Many Christians are content with dismissing the concept of the Trinity and never fully embracing it's claim – that Jesus was fully human and is fully divine and that He is a part of a trio, each playing different yet equally important roles in our lives. Often people argue that because the word Trinity isn't in the Bible it must not be important. Or, they feel that it is a concept that been constructed only in the minds of Theologians and it is not necessary for “regular Christians” to worry about it.

Be careful! The concept of the Trinity is central to being a Christian! Here are 7 reasons why:

Reason #1

Our salvation hinges on the belief that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine.

(See also: <http://members.tripod.com/~robertwells/trinity.html>, <http://www.brandonweb.com/gbt/sermonpages/123john25.htm>)

Consider these verses:

Hebrews 4: 14 – 16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Philippians 2:5-11

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In these verses we learn that:

Because Jesus is fully divine:	Because Jesus is fully human
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His sacrifice for us is sufficient. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If Jesus wasn't divine, his death and resurrection would be no more meaningful than if you or I died for the sins of the world. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His sacrifice for us is sufficient. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ He was able to represent us, humans, before God, as a one-time sacrifice for the sins of the world.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If Jesus wasn't divine, his death could not have broken our chains of bondage to sin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ He was able to stand in our place and receive our punishment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We can have confidence in the faith and hope we confess. Jesus, being fully God, bridged the gap between the Father and us. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We can have confidence in the faith and hope we confess. Jesus, being fully human, is able to represent us before God the Father in heaven. Our faith is not empty!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We can rely on the supernatural strength and direction that only comes from God. Our High Priest, Jesus, is without sin and able to give us strength we do not have on our own. He is a capable High Priest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We can rely on the supernatural strength and direction that only comes from God. Our High Priest, Jesus, has suffered and been tested in every way we have. He is a compassionate and merciful High Priest.

As you can see, our salvation requires that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine. *The Trinity offers a framework through which we can conceptualize how Jesus could be both fully human and fully divine.*

Reason #2:

The Trinity confirms Jesus rightful place as Lord in our life.

- In the Trinity we see that Jesus is fully God.
- We also see that He deserve worship and praise
- Because He is fully God, He requires (and deserves) our obedience

Reason #3:

The Bible provides evidence for the existence of the Trinity.

(Information taken from <http://www.rationalchristianity.net/trinity.html>)

Reference:	Verse:
Mt 28:19	"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"
2 Cor 13:14	"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all"
1 Pt 1:1-2	"To God's elect...who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood"
Jn 1:1-3	"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was

	God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." Jn 1:1-3
Jn 10:30	"I and the Father are one."
2 Cor 3:17-18	"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."
Rom 8:9	"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ."
Acts 5:3-4	"Then Peter said, 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God.'"
1 Pt 1:10-12	"Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven."
Gen 1:1-2	"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."
Is 63:11-14	"Where is he who set his Holy Spirit among them, who sent his glorious arm of power to be at Moses' right hand, who divided the waters before them, to gain for himself everlasting renown, who led them through the depths? Like a horse in open country, they did not stumble; like cattle that go down to the plain, they were given rest by the Spirit of the Lord."
Ps 110:1	"The LORD says to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'"

Reason #4:

The Trinity shows us Jesus equality with God and confirms Jesus' deity.

- Because Jesus is a part of the Trinity, He is equal with God – what He did while on earth has Divine and eternal implications.
- Jesus was not just a “Good Teacher” or a prophet. He was God in the flesh.

Reason #5:

The Trinity helps us realize that the Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – is broad and does not lay on the shoulder of just one individual: Jesus.

- Just as in any relationship, the more we begin to understand the richness and complexities of the other person, our love and respect for them grows deeper.
- Jesus is no different – our relationship with Him is multifaceted *and* it is shared between the Holy Spirit and God the Father.
- Each Person fulfills a different void and need in our lives.

Reason #6:

An understanding of the Trinity strengthens our faith. The Trinity reveals three distinct Persons that make up who we call God. Our faith is deepened as we realize that all three Persons work on our behalf in different ways.

- As we begin to understand Jesus role in the Trinity, we are able to take full advantage of the supernatural grace, strength, and wisdom that is at our disposal.
- Understanding the different roles of each person in the Trinity gives us confidence to take risks in our faith. We can begin to understand exactly what supernatural resources are available to us as we proceed onward in our journey of faith.

Reason # 7:

Understanding the Trinity will also help bring into context the actions, teachings and overall role Jesus plays in God's overall plan of Salvation.

- We cannot appreciate our salvation until we understand the richness and beauty of God’s plan. Living as a Christian without a solid understanding of the salvation plan is like watching only the end of a really good movie.
- By studying the Trinity, we are able to see the intricacies of God’s plan of salvation and deepen the respect and gratitude we should have for His free and invaluable gift.

Conclusion

You can only trust in God as far as you know Him, you can only begin to understand your salvation when you understand the intricacies of His plan, and you can only place Jesus as Lord of your life to the extent that you understand the 3 persons of the Trinity. The deeper you understand the Trinity, the deeper your faith.

S m a l l G r o u p A n s w e r s

1. What does the term 'trinity' seek to do?
Explain the concept of one God with three distinct Persons
2. How and where does God the Father verify Jesus' deity?
The Mount of Transfiguration – Matthew 17:5
3. What is the job description of the Holy Spirit?
To glorify Jesus and to empower the people of God
4. What was Jesus' chief aim?
To glorify the Father and to do His will
5. True or False – The word 'trinity' is not found in the Bible.
True
6. What are some other familiar Christian terms that are not in the Bible?
Communion, Good Friday, Easter, Christmas, Palm Sunday, Altar Call
7. In regards to man, how do all three of the trinity work together?
Father – As the Almighty One, He establishes the plan of salvation.
Son – As the Mediator, He executes the plan's contract in blood.
Holy Spirit – As the Helper, He implements the plan, sealing it with His